

**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY.
WHERE HISTORY MEETS FUTURE,
THE NORTH MEETS THE SOUTH
AND COUNTRY MEETS THE CITY.**



Prince William, situated in classical, green hills near the nation's capital, is crossed by Interstate Route 95 on the east and by Route 66 on the west. The county offers unlimited exploration into yesterday, today and tomorrow.

When the territory that would become Prince William County was a wilderness inhabited by Indians, it made its first contribution to Virginia history. The rich fertile soil produced prolific harvests which Captain John Smith bartered with the Indians for, to sustain the Jamestown settlers that first winter.

Prince William was established in 1731 and soon was host or home to many of

Virginia's and America's statesmen. Port of Dumfries prospered and rivaled Boston and New York. It was frequented by George Washington and George Mason. In 1774, Prince William citizens met at the Dumfries Courthouse and resolved radical measures against the mother country. A committee of safety formed. Prince William sent delegates to the Virginia Conventions and was the home of one of Virginia's first U.S. senators, William Grayson. On November 11, 1774, a company of Minutemen was organized. The county was not a battleground during the Revolution, but was crossed by marching armies in 1781 over roads built by the Prince William Militia. Prince William, on various occasions, raised very nearly the requisite number of troops requested by the General Assembly. The county gave the Continental Army one of its most brilliant officers, Light Horse Harry Lee, whose military genius was inherited by his son, Robert E. Lee.

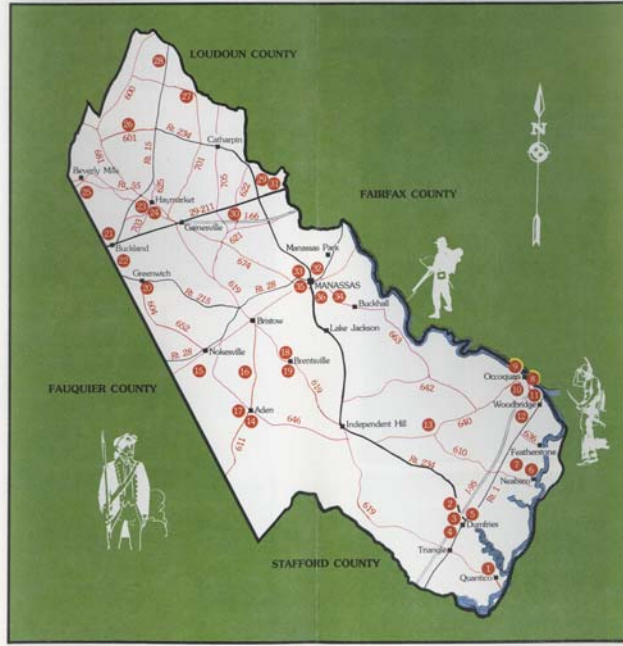
After the Revolution, Prince William took part in establishing a new order. After declaration of the War of 1812, Prince William again feared for its future. In 1814, enemy ships were anchored in the Potomac off Quantico at Dumfries. A providential storm blew in one night, causing considerable damage and persuading the British to withdraw, averting the attack the townspeople expected.

Prince William was often involved in the tragedy of the 1860s. Most of the county was ravaged by the War Between the States. The war made Manassas nationally known after the Battles of Bull Run. After the war, reconstruction began and population has increased steadily.

The first public school in Virginia was at the Asbury Methodist Church in Manassas in 1869. WWI brought establishment of the Quantico Marine Corp Base in the eastern part of the county.

A Tour Guide of Prince William County:

Prince William Historical Commission has designated the historical landmarks of the county. Descriptions correspond with the numbered map. Private residences are marked and are not open to the public.



Manassas National Battlefield - Stone Bridge

TOUR: Descriptions correspond with the numbered map.

1. **RISING HILL** — the high ground above the town of Evansport (Quantico) on which a battery was located during the Confederate Blockade of the Potomac, 1861-1862. This site was also the location of a schoolhouse, the Quantico Hotel and the Marine Corps Base Officers Club.

2. **WEEMS-BOTTS HOUSE** — on Duke Street in Dumfries is restored as a museum by Historic Dumfries, Inc. *Open to the Public.*

3. **HENDERSON HOUSE** — in Dumfries is a large red brick dwelling built in 1785 by Col. Alexander Henderson, who was the father of American chain stores. *Private. NOT OPEN.*

4. **SITE OF THIRD COUNTY COURT-HOUSE** — on corner of Duke and Fairfax Sts. in Dumfries was built in 1760-62 by Benjamin





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Tompkins. In 1774, citizens of the county assembled here to adopt the Prince William Resolves.

5. *STAGECOACH INN* — on U.S. Route 1 was originally called William's Ordinary, then Love's Tavern. Built around 1760 of red brick and white aquia stone, it was frequented by George Washington and other dignitaries. It is a private residence. *NOT OPEN.*

6. *SITE OF LEESYLVANIA PLANTATION* between Neabsco and Powell's Creeks, was the home of Henry Lee II in the late 1700s, who was the father of Light Horse Harry Lee and grandfather of R.E.Lee. A memorial is being erected to mark the graves of Henry Lee II and his wife.

7. *RIPPON LODGE* — overlooks Neabsco Creek and the more distant Potomac. It was built in 1725 by Col. Richard Blackburn, son of Col. Thomas Blackburn, aide-de-camp to George Washington. *Private Residence. NOT OPEN.*

8. *MILL HOUSE MUSEUM* — on Mill St. in Occoquan, is the only remaining part of the Merchant's Mill which operated from 1759 until 1924. The grist mill was owned and operated by nearby merchants. It is the home of Historic Occoquan. *Open to the Public.*

9. *ROCKLEDGE* — across from Mill House, sits on a rock ledge on the steep hillside. The large stone house was built in 1758 by John Ballendine, founder of Occoquan. William Buckland was the architect. *Private residence. NOT OPEN.*



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10. *HAMMILL HOTEL* — on the corner of Union and Commerce Sts., Occoquan, was built about 1804. The red brick building was the popular hotel of the times and headquarters in the Civil War for Gen. Wade Hampton.

11. *SITE OF FIRST COUNTY COURTHOUSE* — built in 1731 on Route 1 on the Lower side of the Occoquan on Woodbridge Plantation, property of George Mason III's widow. Site marked with a monument.

12. *GRAYSON'S TOMB* — here William Grayson is buried with his family. He was one of Virginia's first two U.S. senators and captain of a company formed in Prince William during the Revolution.

13. *BEL AIR* — the main part of the two and one-half story country house was built in 1740 by Maj. Charles Ewell. The pre-revolutionary building has been meticulously restored. Private residence. *NOT OPEN*.

14. *SITE OF SECOND COUNTY COURTHOUSE* — on Cedar Run near Independent Hill on what is now part of Quantico Marine Reservation. It is marked by a monument, recently restored by the Historical Commission.

15. *PILGRIM'S REST* — was the home of Thomas Fitzhugh in the late 1700s. The two and one-half story frame house near Nokesville is restored. Private residence. *NOT OPEN*.

16. *PARK GATE* — was built in 1750 as a part of an original estate of Thomas Lee and his wife, Mildred Washington Lee, niece of George Washington. The existing house was probably a tenant house. Mildred is buried here. Private residence. *NOT OPEN*.

17. *EFFINGHAM* — near Aden is a small mansion of two, frame stories beneath a gabled roof. It was built by Col. William Alexander, great-grandson of John Alexander, who acquired the land patent where Alexandria now stands. Private residence. *NOT OPEN*.

18. *FOURTH COUNTY COURTHOUSE* — at Brentsville, was built in 1822 by William Claytor. The courthouse complex has been restored by the County Department of Parks and Recreation. *OPEN TO THE PUBLIC*.

19. *WHITE HOUSE* — on Bristow Rd. across from the fourth county courthouse, was built in 1822 by Jane Williams, widow of John Williams, who was county clerk from 1795 to 1813. Later the house was used as a girl's school. Private residence. *NOT OPEN*.

20. *GREENWICH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH* — on Vint Hill Rd. was built in 1855. It was the only church in the county not desecrated during the Civil War. It and surrounding property were owned by an Englishman who ran up a British flag and warned "Hands Off." *Bicentennial Display*.

21. *BUCKLAND TAVERN* — on Lee Highway was a wagoneer's tavern where Lafayette was entertained on his last trip to America. Private. *NOT OPEN*.

22. *BUCKLAND HALL* — on County 684, is a large stone house built for Samuel Love. William Buckland is believed to have been the architect. The house was owned by Temple Mason Washington and later by Maj. Richard Bland Lee III. Private residence. *NOT OPEN*.

23. *ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH* — in Haymarket, is a red brick structure completed in 1803 for the District Court for the counties of Prince William, Fairfax, Fauquier, and Loudoun. James Wren was the architect. The building was an academy for a short time and became a church in 1822. It was used by the North and South during the Civil War. Many soldiers are buried in the churchyard.

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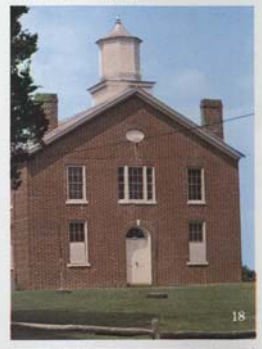
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24. **MCCORMICK HOUSE** — was one of the three surviving structures when Haymarket was burned in 1862 by Federal troops. It was built by John Barnett before 1821 and was in the McCormick family for a hundred years. Private residence. *NOT OPEN.*

25. **BEVERLY MILL** — made of stone six stories high, was built before 1749 by Jonathan Chapman. The mill contributed food products for five wars: the French & Indian War, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War and the Civil War. Private. *NOT OPEN.*



26. **EVERGREEN** — on Waterfall Rd. near Haymarket, is a plastered stone mansion. It was the home of Col. Edmund Berkeley during the Civil War. It became Evergreen Country club in the 1960s.

27. **EGYPT** — a large, stone house near Hickory Grove was built before the turn of the nineteenth century. It is noted for its fine architectural qualities and the two-foot thick, hand chiseled stone walls. It was the home of the Hutchison family. Private residence. *NOT OPEN.*



28. **EWELL'S CHAPEL** — is a simple little structure on County Route 625 near Haymarket. It was built around 1847 on a plot donated by Dr. Jesse Ewell. In 1863 it was the scene of an ambush on Col. John Mosby. *Under restoration.*

29. **JENNIE DEAN'S GRAVE** — at Mt. Cavalry Church on Sudley Road, which she organized. Born of slave parents, Jennie Dean was founder of Manassas Industrial School and a missionary to her people.

30. **DOGAN HOUSE** — at Manassas Battlefield, because of its location between the contending lines during Second Manassas, is a battlefield landmark.

31. **STONEHOUSE** — at the junction of Routes 234 and 29-211, is a stone structure that was used as a tavern and as a hospital during the Civil War. It was built after 1814 on the Pittsylvania Estate. *OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.*

32. **LIBERIA** — is a plantation house built about 1824 by William Weir. It was the headquarters of Confederate Gen. Beauregard in 1861. Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis visited there at different times. Private residence. *NOT OPEN.*

33. **MANASSAS COURTHOUSE** — the present Courthouse of Prince William County was built in 1892. On July 21, 1911, it was the scene of a Peace Jubilee for the veterans of the Blue and Grey of the Civil War.

34. **SIGNAL HILL** — near Route 28, was the Wilcoxon Signal Station where Capt. E.P. Alexander set up the wigwag system for military purposes in 1861.

35. **MANASSAS TOWN HALL** — downtown Manassas, was built in 1914, to replace a one-room frame building.

36. **DEPOT** — between West and Battle Sts., Manassas, was built in 1915 as the town's third train station. It began with the Orange and Alexandria Railroad in 1853.

Gateway to Virginia's Unique Tradition

HISTORIC Prince William County



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